

(1) belt for delivery of cooling liquid to the reverse surface of said belt in the form of a continuous film having a substantially uniform thickness and velocity of flow when considered in the transverse direction of the belt, a drainage opening for removal of cooling liquid at a position spaced from said continuous slot, and a vacuum system associated with said drainage opening for applying suction to said drainage opening, wherein said support surface is beveled away from said reverse surface at outer edges of said nozzle to form a bevel adjacent to each of said outer edges.

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(2) 15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bevel extends inwardly from said outer edges towards said slot by a distance of from 2.5 mm to 3.5 mm.

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(3) 17. (Amended) A belt cooling and guiding apparatus for a casting belt of a twin belt caster provided with a pair of rotatably supported endless casting belts, a casting mold formed between moving casting surfaces of confronting generally planar sections of the belts, said sections having reverse surfaces opposite said casting surfaces, the casting mold having a molten metal entrance at one end and a solidified sheet article outlet at an opposite end, and a casting injector for introduction of molten metal into the casting mold at the entrance of the casting mold; the cooling and guiding apparatus comprising at least one elongated nozzle having a support surface facing a reverse surface of said casting belt, a continuous slot in the support surface arranged transversely substantially completely across said casting belt for delivery of cooling liquid to the reverse surface of said belt in the form of a continuous film having a substantially uniform thickness and velocity of flow when considered in the transverse direction of the belt, a drainage opening for removal of cooling liquid at a position spaced from said continuous slot, and a vacuum system associated with said drainage opening for applying suction to said drainage opening, wherein an array of

point cooling nozzles is provided downstream of said at least one elongated nozzle provided with said slot.

18. (Amended) A twin belt caster comprising a pair of rotatably supported endless casting belts, a casting mold formed between moving casting surfaces of confronting generally planar sections of the belts, said sections having reverse surfaces opposite said casting surfaces, the casting mold having a molten metal entrance at one end and a solidified sheet article outlet at an opposite end, and a casting injector for introduction of molten metal into the casting mold at the entrance of the casting mold, said one end and said opposite end defining a mold region between them; said caster including cooling and guiding apparatus for at least one of said casting belts, comprising at least one nozzle having a support surface, for engaging a reverse surface of said one casting belt, provided with a continuous elongated slot arranged transversely substantially completely across said one casting belt for delivery of cooling liquid to the reverse surface of said belt in the form of a continuous film having substantially uniform thickness and velocity of flow when considered in the transverse direction of the belt, a drainage opening for removal of cooling liquid spaced from said continuous slot, and a vacuum system associated with said drainage opening for applying suction to said drainage opening, wherein said cooling and guiding apparatus contacts said reverse surface of said one casting belt within said mold region.

35. (Amended) A nozzle for a belt cooling and guiding apparatus, comprising a support surface for supporting a reverse surface of a casting belt, the support surface having a length corresponding to a width of said belt, an elongated continuous slot in said support surface having a length substantially the same as the length of the support surface for delivery of cooling liquid in the form of a continuous film having uniform thickness and velocity of flow along the slot, and a drainage opening for

C4 removal of cooling liquid spaced from said continuous slot, wherein said support surface is beveled away from said reverse surface at outer edges of said nozzle to form a bevel adjacent to each of said outer edges.

25 45. (Amended) The nozzle of claim 35, wherein said bevel extends inwardly from said outer edges towards said slot by a distance of from 2.5 mm to 3.5 mm.

Add the following claim:

C6 --46. (New) A twin belt caster comprising a pair of rotatably supported endless casting belts, a casting mold formed between moving casting surfaces of confronting generally planar sections of the belts, said sections having reverse surfaces opposite said casting surfaces, the casting mold having a molten metal entrance at one end and a solidified sheet article outlet at an opposite end, and a casting injector for introduction of molten metal into the casting mold at the entrance of the casting mold; said caster including cooling and guiding apparatus for at least one of said casting belts, comprising at least one nozzle having a support surface, for engaging a reverse surface of said one casting belt, provided with a continuous elongated slot arranged transversely substantially completely across said one casting belt for delivery of cooling liquid to the reverse surface of said belt in the form of a continuous film having substantially uniform thickness and velocity of flow when considered in the transverse direction of the belt, a drainage opening for removal of cooling liquid spaced from said continuous slot, and a vacuum system associated with said drainage opening for applying suction to said drainage opening, wherein a first of said at least one nozzles taken in the direction of advancement of the said belt through said casting apparatus is positioned immediately adjacent to the entrance of the casting mold.--

Cancel claims 14 and 44.